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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/020,893	12/19/2001	Lawrence N. Dagate	RIC-01-026	8775

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WORLD COM, INC.  
TECHNOLOGY LAW DEPARTMENT  
1133 19TH STREET NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20036

EXAMINER
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LAIR, DONALD M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2858

DATE MAILED: 03/31/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/020,893

Applicant(s)

DAGATE, LAWRENCE N.

Examiner

Donald M. Lair

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Specification*

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Page 1, paragraph 2, serial number should be filed.

Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1 – 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jones et al. (US-6,078,595).

4. In regards to Claims 1 and 8, Jones et al. teach an apparatus comprising at least one first connector configured to connect to electrical equipment and receive a plurality of timing/synchronization signals from the electrical equipment (Fig. 1, elements 12a and 12b; Column 5, lines 48 – 53), a plurality of second connectors respectively configured to connect to a plurality of network devices and deliver the plurality of signals to the plurality of network devices (Fig. 7, “PORT 4”; Column 4, lines 32 – 45), and a plurality of third connectors respectively coupled to at least one of the at least one first connector and the plurality of second connectors and configured to provide temporary connection to at least one of the electrical equipment and the plurality of network devices (Fig. 5, element 44; Column 6, lines 1 – 8).

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5. In regards to Claim 2, Jones et al. teach the apparatus disclose above, further including wire wrap pins in the connections (Column 6, lines 11 and 12)
6. In regards to Claim 3, Jones et al. teach the apparatus disclose above, wherein it is inherent that the connector will have a number of contact points therein.
7. In regards to Claim 4, the at least one first connector is a synchronizing signal to be applied to the plurality of second connectors and are therefore connected to each other (Column 5, lines 33 – 53).
8. In regards to Claims 5 – 7, Jones et al. teach the apparatus disclose above, wherein the plurality of third connectors include multiple pluralities of connectors (Fig. 7, element 22 and “PORT4”; Column 4, lines 32 – 45).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 9 – 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones et al. in view of Richardson et al. (US-6,356,532).
11. In regards to Claims 9, 12, 17, 18, 19, and 21, Jones et al. teach an apparatus comprising a plurality of network connectors respectively configured to connect to a plurality of network elements (Fig. 7, element 22 and “PORT 4”; Column 4, lines 32 – 45), at least one timing connector connected to the plurality of network connectors and configured to connect to

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synchronous electronics (Fig. 1, elements 12a and 12b; Column 5, lines 48 – 53). Jones et al. fail to teach a plurality of jacks that can facilitate temporary connection of cables for testing or patching signals.

12. Richardson et al. teach a networking apparatus including a monitoring port comprising a plurality of connectors/jacks for the purpose of testing signals (Fig. 5, element 54; Column 4, lines 63 – 67). Richardson et al. teach using patch cables (Fig. 1, elements 24).

13. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention taught by Jones et al. by including a plurality of jacks as taught by Richardson et al. for the purpose of quickly and easily accessing and testing or viewing/monitoring, via removable patch cable, on a monitor signals that would otherwise be unavailable.

14. In regards to Claim 10, Jones et al. teach the apparatus disclose above, further including wire wrap pins in the connections (Column 6, lines 11 and 12).

15. In regards to Claim 11, Jones et al. teach using two external electronic devices for timing and synchronization of network devices (Column 5, lines 48 – 61). Since the timers are external it is inherent that a connector will be used, wherein the pins correspond to the timing signals, to connect the timing devices to the panel.

16. In regards to Claim 13, Jones et al. likely included a secondary group of network connectors since it would be required to actually connect the external network devices to the system, but they failed to teach this.

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17. The Richardson et al. reference teaches a primary group of network connectors (Fig. 1, element 22) and a secondary group of network connectors that are spatially separated from the primary group of network connectors (Fig. 1, elements W1 – W5).

18. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Jones et al. by establishing a secondary group of network connectors that are spatially separated from the primary group of network connectors as taught by Richardson et al. for the purpose of realizing the desired goal of the invention by allowing external devices to be connected to the system.

19. In regards to Claim 14, Jones et al. teach a primary and secondary external timing device and the panel must include a primary and secondary timing connector that are separated from each other since the timing devices are not included in a single device capable of combining output signals.

20. In regards to Claim 15, Jones et al. teach a plurality of equipment jacks that must be spatially separated from each other since the network devices are not included in a single device capable of combining output signals.

21. In regards to Claim 16, Jones et al. fail to teach the specific type of connectors used for the equipment jacks.

22. Richardson et al. teach using identical types of connectors for the various types of equipment to be connected (Fig. 1, element 22).

23. In view of these two references, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Jones et al. by using a single

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type of identical connectors for all of the jacks as taught by Richardson et al. for the purpose of allowing each of the different types of devices to be connected to any given port.

24. In regards to Claim 20, Jones et al. teaches a means for perpetually receiving and holding one or more connection wires (Fig. 7, element 22).

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*Conclusion*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Donald M. Lair whose telephone number is (703) 305-4450. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, N. Le can be reached on (703) 308-0750. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9318 for regular communications and 703-872-9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1436.



Donald M. Lair  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2858  
March 20, 2003



**N. Le**  
**Supervisory Patent Examiner**  
**Technology Center 2800**